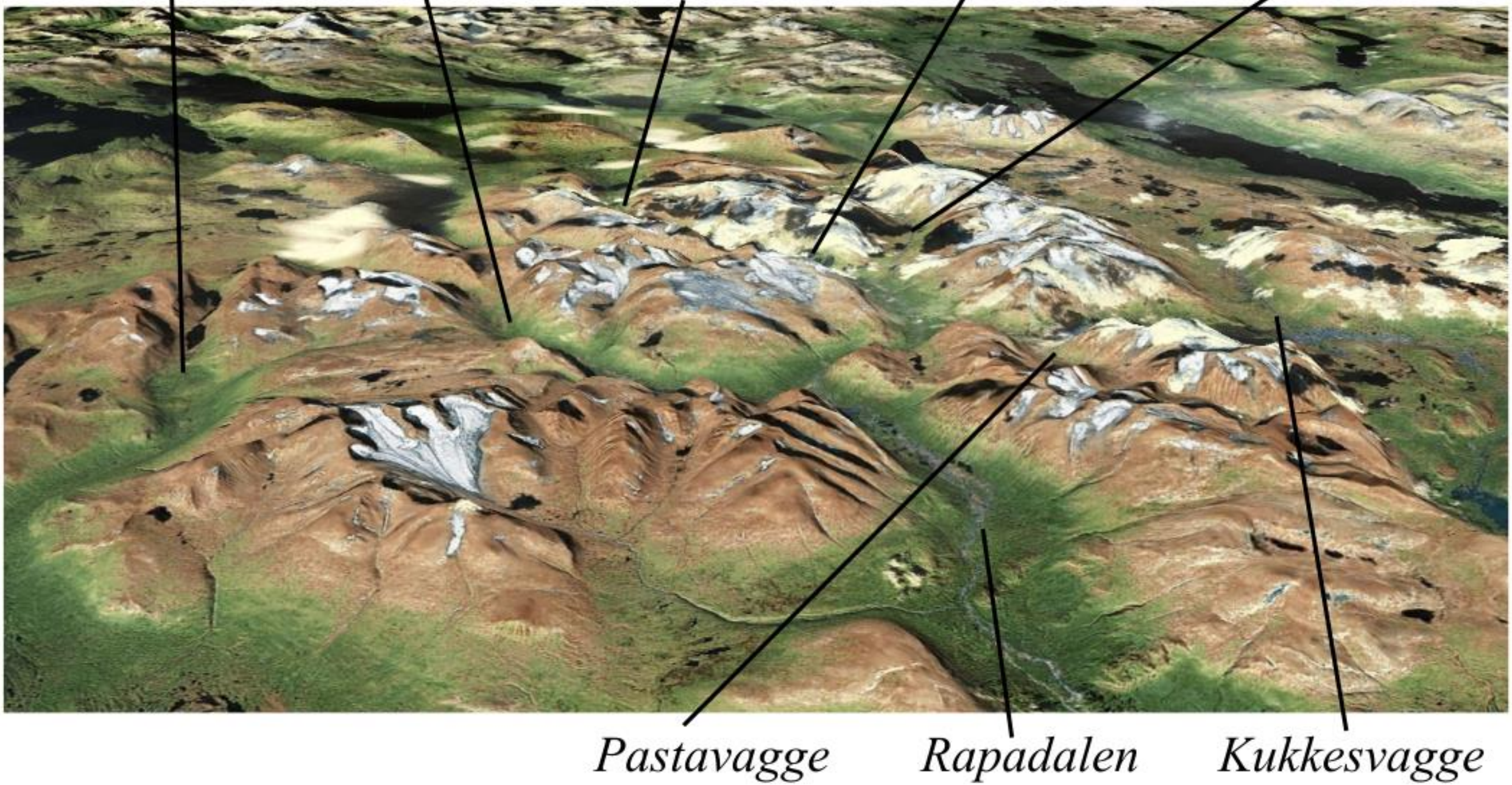
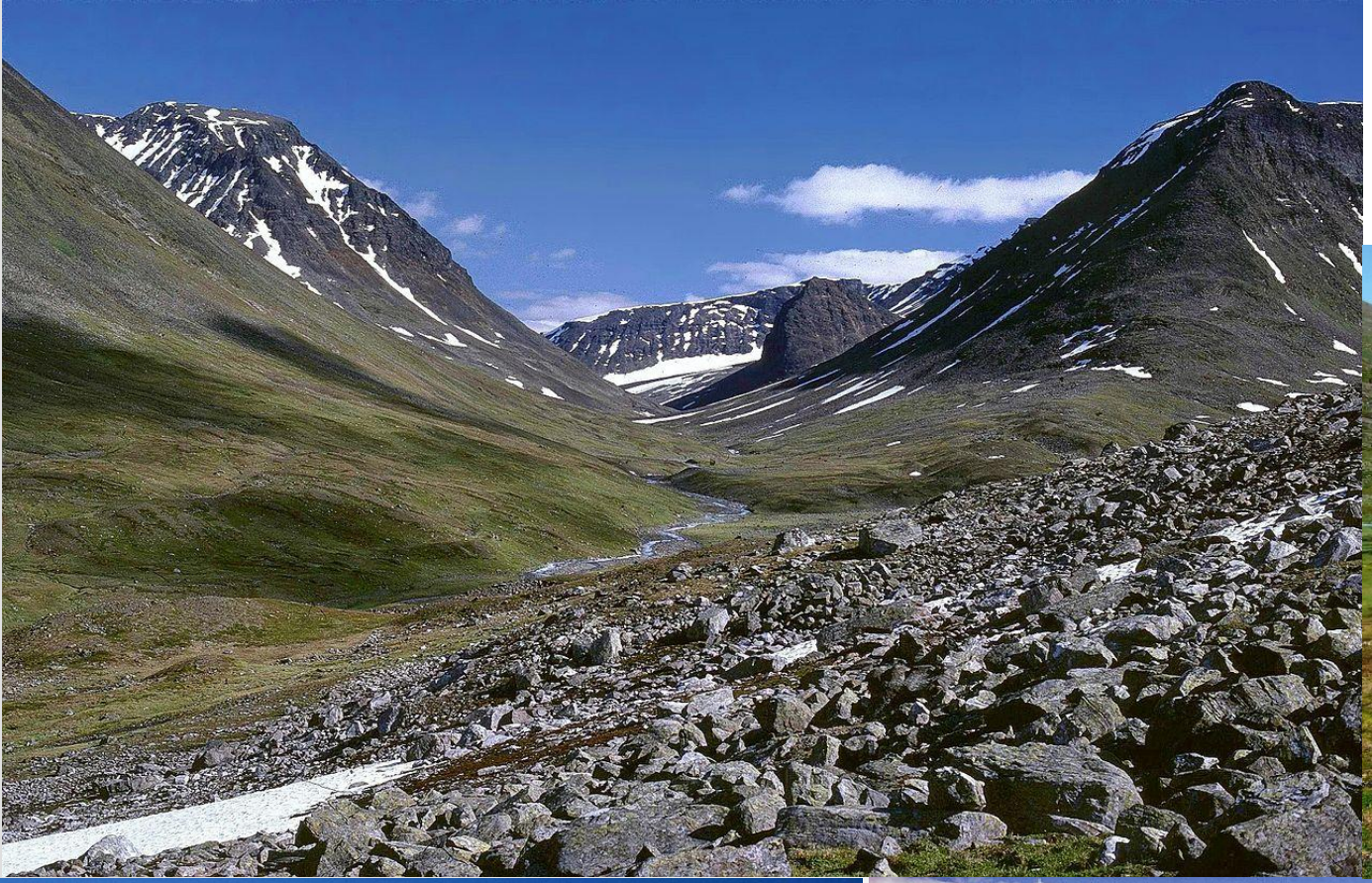
SAREK NATIONAL PARK

is a national park in Jokkmokk Municipality, Lapland in northern Sweden. Established in 1909, the park is the oldest national park in Europe.

The most noted features of the national park are six of Sweden's thirteen peaks over 2,000 m (6,600 ft) located within the park's boundaries. Among these is the second highest mountain in Sweden, Sarektjåkkå, whilst the massif Áhkká is located just outside the park. The park has about 200 peaks over 1,800 m (5,900 ft), 82 of which have names.


Njåtjosvagge
Sarvesvagge
Alggavagge
Kuopervagge
Ruotesvagge
Pastavagge
Rapadalen
Kukkesvagge

Sarek



Map of Sarek National Park, Padjelanta and Stora Sjöfallet

Sarek

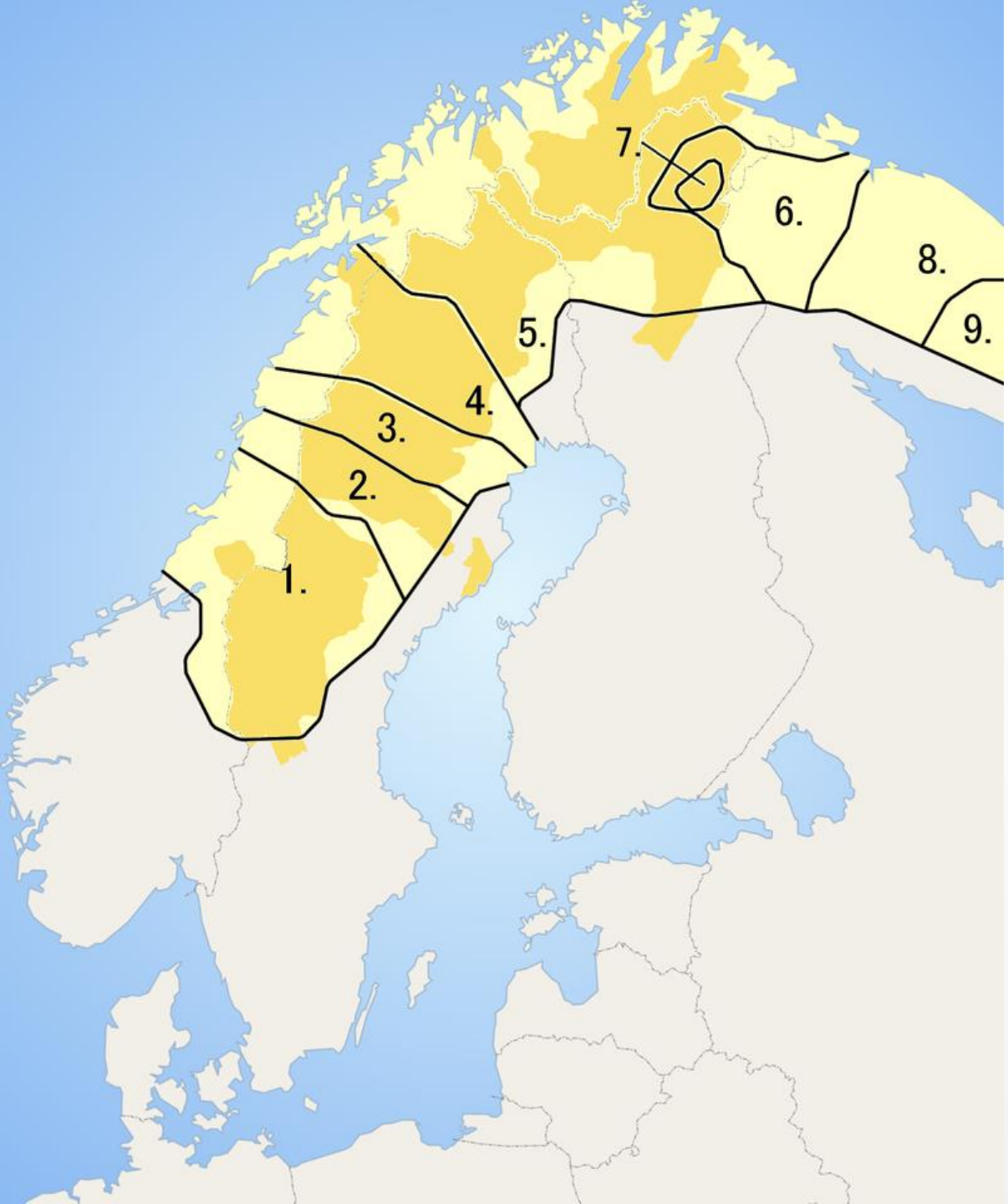
Sarek

The Sami people

They were nomads who lived in Northern Scandinavia, and probably ancestors of the Samis. Initially they were hunter-gatherers, living off reindeer. For those people, the mountains often had religious connotations, and several were Sieidi (places of worship). Offerings, such as antlers from reindeer, were often made in those places. One of the most significant Sieidi was situated at the foot of Mount Skierfe (1,179 m (3,868 ft) high), at the entrance to the Rapa Valley. Samis from the entire region gathered in this place for ceremonies. Mount Apär itself, was believed to be the home of demons and legend tells of an illegitimate child's ghost inside it.

For shelter during their long journeys, which could last for several weeks, the inhabitants built huts (kåta) at selected places in the park.[87] Little by little, they left the reindeer to graze as they pleased, and stopped moving with the herds in the old way.

Sami People



Geographic distribution of the Sámi languages:

Southern Sámi (1)

Ume Sámi (2)

Pite Sámi (3)

Lule Sámi (4)

Northern Sámi (5)

Skolt Sámi (6)

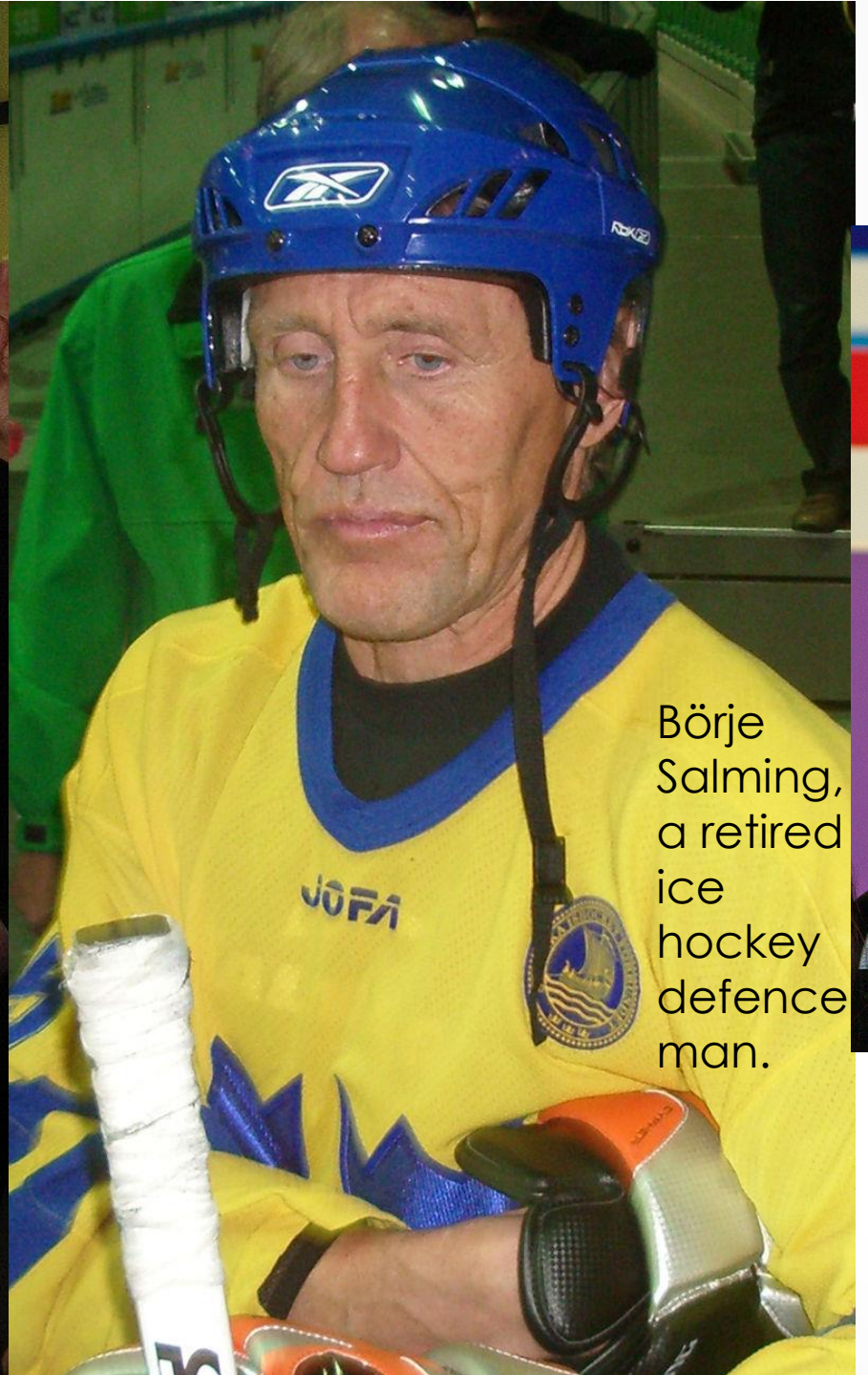
Inari Sámi (7)

Kildin Sámi (8)

Ter Sámi (9)

Darkened area represents municipalities that recognize Sámi as an official language.

Renée Zellweger, American actress



Börje Salming, a retired ice hockey defence man.

Notable people of Sámi descent

Anja Pärson a Sámi skier from Sweden

SAREK AND TOURISM

Sarek National Park is mainly a high-alpine area with almost no accommodation for tourists.

Hiking trails

The Kungsleden hiking trail passes through the eastern part of the park, from Saltoluokta to Kvikkjokk. There are no cabins within the park, the Pårte, Aktse and Sitojaure cabins are just outside the park and they are accessible from both Saltoluokta and Kvikkjokk.

The Padjelanta Trail (Padjelantaleden), running from Kvikkjokk to Akkajaure, skirts the park along its western rim at Tarraluoppal, where the Tarraluoppal cabin is just on the border of the park.

Hazards

Due to the lack of shelters combined with rapidly shifting weather and rough terrain, it is recommended that hikers are well prepared and experienced before setting out on the trails of the park.

Fording streams

Fording streams

There are few bridges in the park, and crossing streams (Sami: jokk) and rivers (Sami: ätno) can be dangerous for ill-equipped or inexperienced hikers. Warm weather increases the melting of the glaciers causing water levels to rise, therefore wading is often easier and safer early in the morning.

The only ford across the Rapa River south of the Smaila Moot, is at Tielmaskaite. The ford is long and can only be used when waterlevels are low. Inexperienced hikers are recommended not to cross without a guide.

The glacier jokk from Pårtejekna, Kåtokjåhkå, has no fords. There is a bridge at the southernmost part of the stream (67°09′25.9″N 17°51′20.9″E). Hikers can also follow the streams up to the glacier and cross there, although this requires knowledge about glacier crossing.

Sarek in the winter

The lack of marked trails and accommodations makes it very difficult for visitors to hike in the park in winter, unless they are experienced and properly equipped. The steep slopes of the valleys also contributes to the risk for avalanches.

Guided tours and equipment
If you want guided hiking events or rent equipment such as canoes, tents, clothes, etc., you can contact our partner

Laponia Adventures.
Email: info@laponiaadventures.com
Website: www.laponiaadventures.com

Sarek from the south
To get to Sarek from the south, the Kvikkjok area is the best starting point. Buses run from Jokkmokk to Kvikkjokk / Huhttán.

The fastest way into Sarek is to get to Aktse and start the mountain hike there.

In Sarek, windbreaks are available at the following locations:

Skárja - cannot be fired in the windbreak, dry toilet available.
Jågge - in the windbreak there is a wood stove and firewood, dry toilet is available.

If you want to get to Sarek from the north, there are communications from both Gällivare and Jokkmokk.

There are several trains a day to Gällivare train station. The bus station is adjacent to the train.

From Jokkmokk you can take a bus via Porjus for further travel along Vägen west. After the road to the west is also Gäbnásj (Kebnats) which is a stop if you are going to start your hike in Sáltoluokta. You can also stay in Suorvvá and cross the dam. From there you can quickly enter Sarek and reach the Sarek and Ähpár massifs in one day.

From Ritsem / Rijtjem you take the boat over Áhkkájávvre and then have about a short day's hike to get to Sarek.

From Kvikkjokk / Huhttán or from Ritsem / Rijtjem you can fly with the regular helicopter trips to Stáloluokta in Padjelanta / Badjelánnda to start your hike. There is also the possibility of taxi flights with landings outside the national parks.

From the airports in Gälivare and Luleå there are bus connections to and from the mountain areas. Car rental is available at all central locations.

Jokkmokks Infocenter
Tourist
0971-222 50
Summer opening hours 22 / 6-7 / 8
Monday-Friday 08.00-17.00

Jokkmokk Municipality Infocenter
The municipality's reception and exchange
0971-170 00 vx
Summer opening hours 6-31 / 7
Monday-Friday 08.00-12.00

Announce your arrival at the reception and the staff will help you further.

Regular opening hours:
Weekend Monday-Thursday:
08:00 to 16:00
Weekend Friday:
8:00 to 15:00
Closed for lunch:
12:00 to 13:00